

Application Number 10/776,961
Amendment dated May 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2005

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1 and 2. The sheet, which includes FIGS. 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet. In FIGS. 1 and 2 the legend "PRIOR ART" is added.

A marked-up version of the drawings, with revisions shown in red, is included with the amended drawings. Entry of the amendments to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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REMARKS

The drawings are objected to because Figures 1 and 2 lack the legend "PRIOR ART." The drawings are amended herein to add the legend to the drawings. Reconsideration of the objection to the drawings is requested.

Claims 10, 21 and 23 are objected to for informalities. The claims are amended herein such that it is believed that the objections are overcome. Specifically, new independent claim 28, the rewritten version of claim 10, includes the corrections suggested by the Examiner. New independent claim 29, the rewritten version of claim 23, also includes the corrected language suggested by the Examiner. Claim 21 is also amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is believed that the claim objections are overcome, and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimizu (U.S. Patent Number 6,043,699). Claims 14-18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu in view of Hayashi, *et al.* (U.S. Publication Number 2002/0050849A1). In view of the amendments to the claims, it is believed that the rejections are overcome.

Claims 6-13 and 19-26 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6 and intervening claim 3, and independent claim 14 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 19 and intervening claim 16. Claims 3, 6, 16 and 19 are cancelled. Additionally, new independent claim 28, is allowable claim 10 rewritten in independent form, and dependent claims 11 and 12 are amended to depend from new independent claim 28. Similarly, new independent claim 29 is allowable dependent claim 23 rewritten in independent form. Dependent claims 24 and 25 are amended to depend from claim 29. New dependent claim 30 depends from allowable claim 29. Claims 10 and 23 are canceled.

As a result of the amendments, all claims pending in the application incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that all claims are allowable. Therefore,

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reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) based on Shimizu and the rejections of claims 14-18 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Shimizu and Hayashi, *et al.* is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that all claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully solicited. If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 1
(PRIOR ART)

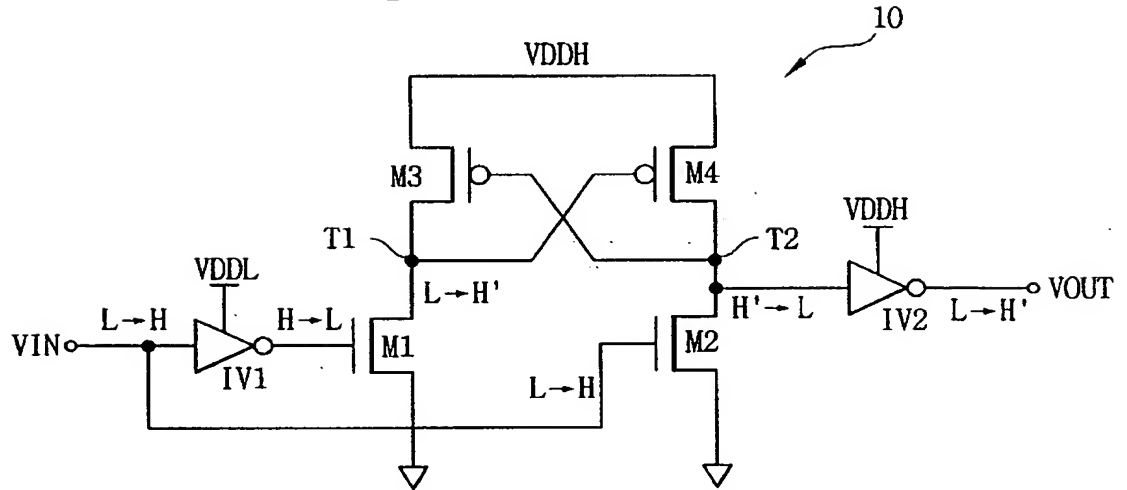


FIG. 2
(PRIOR ART)

